


# Written Directive: 6.85



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## YOUTH RESPONSE UNIT (YRU)

### A. Purpose:

The purpose of this Directive is to provide officers and civilian personnel with direction regarding the implementation of the Wilmington Police Department's Youth Response Unit ("YRU").

The YRU is designed to enhance the safety and development of children through a partnership with law enforcement and social service professionals to serve and support children and their families affected by violence, trauma, and difficult social issues. The State of Delaware Department of Services for Children Youth and Their Families partners with the Wilmington Police Department in this project.

The YRU is housed within the Victim Services Unit ("VSU"), which is part of the Criminal Investigations Division. The Victim Services Supervisor acts as the daily point of contact for clinicians and other partners.

### B. Definitions

#### ACUTE CASE:

An acute case is defined as a traumatic situation that requires immediate consultation with a YRU clinician. If a child is a victim of or witness to the following situations – murder, suicide, felony-level assaults, home invasions, and motor vehicle accidents involving serious injury or death – YRU should be notified.

#### NON-ACUTE CASES:

A non-acute case is defined as a situation that does not require an immediate response, but clinical intervention may benefit the child. These situations include but are not limited to ongoing domestic violence, behavior issues resulting from past trauma or emotional distress, or being a witness or victim of crimes not listed under Acute Cases.

**C. Roles/Responsibilities:**

The Wilmington Police Department will:

1. Make referrals to the Youth Response Unit.
2. If the responding or investigating officer finds a need for a YRU intervention, they will notify their immediate supervisor. The supervisor will assess the situation and determine the appropriate response level (acute or non-acute). If the situation is deemed to be acute, the supervisor will contact the Victim Services on- call number at 302-576-3928. The Victim Services Unit will screen for the appropriate response (VSU, YRU or both) and coordinate that response.
3. For non-acute cases or cases where an immediate response is not needed or possible, the Officer shall forward the contact information for the parent or guardian; the child's name and date of birth; and a short summary to the YRU clinicians via email to [youthresponseunit@wilmingtonde.gov](mailto:youthresponseunit@wilmingtonde.gov) or calling 302-576-3183 and a clinician will follow up with the family within 72 hours of receiving the referral. As part of standard protocol the Officers will also provide the reporting adult the Departmental Crime Victims' Bill of Rights Information Card which has the YRU contact number listed.
4. The Victim Services Unit will also review reports regularly to identify opportunities to offer YRU services and make referrals.